

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS for the ENTRY LEVEL EXAMINATIONS
for
OFFICER CORPS OCCUPATIONS**

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

These sample questions are similar to the questions you will find in the actual test in terms of difficulty and form. In general, the test questions deal with topics that are related to Government business which you would be likely to encounter in the performance of your jobs. *Remember, however, that knowledge of any job-specific subject matter is **NOT** required to answer the questions correctly.*

PART A: VOCABULARY AND REASONING

The total time allotted for Part A is 50 minutes. Part A consists of 15 vocabulary questions and 20 reasoning questions. It should take you about 5 minutes to answer the vocabulary questions, which would leave you 45 minutes for the reasoning questions. Do not spend much more than 5 minutes on the vocabulary questions because this would cut into the time you have for answering the reasoning questions. However, if you finish Part A before the allotted time is over, you should review your answers in both the Vocabulary and the Reasoning sections, especially any answers about which you are uncertain.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

Officer Corps jobs require you to communicate well in both written and spoken language. Consequently, a good vocabulary is important for successful job performance. The following questions present a key word and five suggested answers. Your task is to find the suggested answer that is closest in meaning to the key word. Wrong answers may have some connection with the word, but their meaning will be essentially different from that of the key word. Sample questions 1 and 2 are examples of the vocabulary questions in the test.

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| 1. <i>Stipulation</i> means most nearly | A) essential specification
B) unnecessary addition
C) unnecessary effort
D) required training
E) required correction |
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The word *stipulation* refers to a required condition or item specified in a contract, treaty, or other official document. Therefore, response A, *essential specification*, is the best synonym. Response B is incorrect because the term *unnecessary addition* contradicts the idea of being *essential* or *required*. Responses C and D are clearly unrelated to the meaning of *stipulation*. Response E, *required correction*, shares with *stipulation* the idea of being necessary, as well as an association with something written. However, a *correction* is an alteration made to remedy or remove an error or fault, so its basic meaning is completely different from that of *stipulation*.

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| 2. Allocation means most nearly | A) prevention
B) site
C) exchange
D) assignment
E) ointment |
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An *allocation* is the act of setting something apart for a particular purpose. Response D, *assignment*, refers to the act of specifying or designating something exactly or precisely, and is, therefore, the best synonym for *allocation*. Responses A, C, and E are clearly unrelated to the meaning of *allocation*. Response B, *site*, refers to a geographical location or position; it has nothing to do with the purpose of an object.

REASONING QUESTIONS

In each of these questions you will be given a paragraph which contains all the information necessary to infer the correct answer. Use **only** the information provided in the paragraph. Do not speculate or make assumptions that go beyond this information. Also, assume that all information given in the paragraph is true, even if it conflicts with some fact that is known to you.

Pay attention to negated verbs (for example, “are not”) and negative prefixes (for example, “incomplete” or “disorganized”). Also pay special attention to quantifiers such as “all,” “none,” and “some.” For example, from a paragraph in which it is stated that “it is not true that all contracts are legal,” one can validly infer that “some contracts are not legal,” or that “some contracts are illegal,” or that “some illegal things are contracts,” but one **cannot** validly infer that “no contracts are legal,” or that “some contracts are legal.” Similarly, from a paragraph that states “all contracts are legal” and “all contracts are two-sided agreements,” one can infer that “some two-sided agreements are legal,” but one **cannot** validly infer that “all two-sided agreements are legal.”

Keep in mind that, in some tests, universal quantifiers such as “all” and “none” often give away incorrect response choices. That is **not** the case in this test. Some correct answers will refer to “all” or “none” of the members of a group.

Be sure to distinguish between essential information and unessential, peripheral information. That is to say, in a real test question, the example above (“all contracts are legal” and “all contracts are two-sided agreements”) would appear in a longer, full-fledged paragraph. It would be up to you to separate the essential information from its context, and then to realize that a response choice that states “some two-sided agreements are legal” represents a valid inference and hence the correct answer.

Sample questions 3 and 4 are examples of the reasoning questions in the test.

3. The Supreme Court’s power to invalidate legislation that violates the Constitution is a strong restriction on the powers of Congress. If an Act of Congress is deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, then the Act is voided. Unlike a presidential veto, which can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the House and the Senate, a constitutional ruling by the Supreme Court must be accepted by the Congress.
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The paragraph supports the statement that

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| A) if an Act of Congress is voided, then it has been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court |
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- B) if an Act of Congress has not been voided, then it has not been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court
- C) if an Act of Congress has not been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, then it is voided
- D) if an Act of Congress is deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, then it is not voided
- E) if an Act of Congress has not been voided, then it has been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

The correct answer is response B. The essential information from which the answer is to be inferred is contained in the second sentence, which states that if an Act of Congress has been deemed unconstitutional, then it is voided. It follows that, if an Act of Congress is **not** voided, then it has **not** been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Response A is not supported by the paragraph because the paragraph does not indicate whether an Act of Congress is voided **only** when it has been deemed unconstitutional or if it could be voided for other reasons.

Response C, like response A, cannot be inferred from the paragraph because the paragraph does not indicate whether or not an Act of Congress would be voided if the Supreme Court did not declare it to be unconstitutional.

Responses D and E are incorrect because they both contradict the paragraph.

Note that, in this question, the correct answer follows basically from one sentence in the paragraph—the second sentence. The rest of the paragraph presents additional information about the relationship between the Supreme Court and the Congress, which is relevant to the discussion but **not** necessary to make the inference. In this test, you will find some questions in which it is necessary to use all or most of the statements presented in the paragraph while in others, such as this one, only one statement is needed to infer the correct answer.

4. Law enforcement agencies use scientific techniques to identify suspects or to establish guilt. One obvious application of such techniques is the examination of a crime scene. Some substances found at a crime scene yield valuable clues under microscopic examination. Clothing fibers, dirt particles, and even pollen grains may reveal important information to the careful investigator. Nothing can be overlooked because all substances found at a crime scene are potential sources of evidence.

The paragraph supports the statement that

- A) all substances that yield valuable clues under microscopic examination are substances found at a crime scene
- B) some potential sources of evidence are substances that yield valuable clues under microscopic examination
- C) some substances found at a crime scene are not potential sources of evidence
- D) no potential sources of evidence are substances found at a crime scene
- E) some substances that yield valuable clues under microscopic examination are not substances found at a crime scene

The correct answer is response B. The essential information from which the answer can be inferred is contained in the third and fifth sentences. The third sentence tells us that “some substances found at a crime scene yield valuable clues under microscopic examination.” The fifth sentence explains that

“...all substances found at a crime scene are potential sources of evidence.” Therefore, we can conclude that “some potential sources of evidence are substances that yield valuable clues under microscopic examination.”

Response A cannot be inferred because the paragraph does not support the statement that all substances which yield valuable clues are found exclusively at a crime scene. It may be that valuable clues could be found elsewhere.

Responses C and D are incorrect because they contradict the fifth sentence of the paragraph, which clearly states that “all substances found at a crime scene are potential sources of evidence.”

Response E is incorrect because the paragraph provides no information about the value of substances found somewhere other than at the crime scene.

PART B: REASONING WITH PROBABILITIES

The total time allotted for Part B is 50 minutes. Part B will consist of 25 questions which require reasoning with probabilities. The right answer to each question is the answer that is best supported by the information presented in the paragraph. Keep in mind that each question has only **one** correct answer. If you finish Part B before the allotted time is over, you should review your answers, especially any answers about which you are uncertain.

In many INS jobs, employees must make decisions and draw conclusions based on probabilities. In Part B you will be presented with a paragraph of information and five conclusions. Your task is to select the conclusion that is best supported by the information given in the paragraph. Sample questions 5 and 6 are examples of the questions in Part B.

5. The alphanumeric coding of a fingerprint is a systematic description of the main patterns on the print. Within a certain metropolitan district, 90% of the population have fingerprints that can be alphanumerically coded.

The paragraph best supports the statement that the fingerprints of a person, selected at random from this district,

- A) can be alphanumerically coded, with a probability of 10%
- B) can be alphanumerically coded, with a probability of less than 90%
- C) cannot be alphanumerically coded, with a probability of 10%
- D) cannot be alphanumerically coded, with a probability of up to 90%
- E) may be coded alphanumerically, but the probability is unknown

The correct answer is response C. We know from the second sentence that 90% of the people in this district have fingerprints that can be coded. Therefore, we know that 10% ($100\% - 90\% = 10\%$) have fingerprints that cannot be coded. The chance of selecting a person from this district with fingerprints that cannot be coded is 10%.

Response A is incorrect because we know from the paragraph that a probability of 10% is an underestimate of the probability that fingerprints of a person from this district can be coded. From the second sentence we know that 90% (not just 10%) can be alphanumerically coded.

Response B is incorrect because, like response A, it is an underestimate. From the second sentence we know that 90% (not less than 90%) can be alphanumerically coded.

Response D is incorrect because it is an overestimate. Only 10% cannot be alphanumerically coded since we know from the second sentence that 90% can be. Therefore, the chance of selecting a person from this district with fingerprints that cannot be coded is 10%.

Response E is incorrect because the probability is known. We know from the second sentence that 90% of the people in this district have fingerprints that can be coded. Therefore, the chance of selecting a person from this district with fingerprints that can be coded is 90%.

6. The printed output of some computer-driven printers can be recognized by forensic analysts. The “Acme Model 200” printer was manufactured using two different inking mechanisms—one of which yields a “Type A” micropattern of ink spray around its characters. Of all Acme Model 200 printers, 77% produce this Type A micropattern, which is also characteristic of some models of other printers. Forensic analysts at a crime lab have been examining a kidnap ransom note which clearly exhibits the Type A micropattern.

The paragraph best supports the statement that this note

- A) was printed on an Acme Model 200 printer, with a probability of 77%
- B) was printed on an Acme Model 200 printer, with a probability of 23%
- C) was not printed on an Acme Model 200 printer, with a probability of 77%
- D) was not printed on an Acme Model 200 printer, with a probability of 23%
- E) may have been printed on an Acme Model 200 printer, but the probability cannot be estimated

The correct answer is response E. We know from the third sentence that the Type A micropattern exists in some other models of printers, including the Acme Model 200, but we do not know how many others or their probabilities. Hence, the probability that the note was printed on the Acme Model 200 printer cannot be estimated. For that reason, responses A, B, C, and D are incorrect because the probability estimate is based only on the characteristic of the one model printer that we know, the Acme Model 200, and not on the universe of other printer models that contain the Type A micropattern.